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For Readers of Mature Distinction.

Shanda THE PANDA

Antarctic Blast

March 1996

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ANTARCTIC PRESS Comic Schedule

subject to change

- Sepina #1
- NHS TPB Vol. 2
- Warrior Nun: Portraits
- Warrior Nun Areala Poster #2
- Warrior Nun Areala Poster #1—Signed
- Chesty Sanchez #2
- F-111 Bandit #8
- Fantastic Panic v.2 #3
- Furrlough #39
- Hurricane Girls #5
- Shanda, The Panda #14
- Tigers of Terra #20
- Vampire Miyu #6
- Genus #17 (Venus; *Adult*)
- A-Bomb #11 (Venus; *Adult*)

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THE POLITICS OF FANBOYS

by Ben Dunn

FANBOY!

Kind of has a harsh ring to it, doesn't it?

Why is it that in this industry we are in the mood to quickly label those that have a genuine passion for the hobby? Do we feel the need to exercise our own superiority or is it a way to cover our own inner passion? Why is it so many professionals in the comic industry need to label comic readers as 'fanboys'? You'll notice there is little regard to call someone a 'fangirl'. Probably because there are so few of them we are afraid to chase off the few females who actually enter the hobby of comic collecting.

I remember a time when it was a badge of honor to be called a 'fan'. I was passionate about comics because I loved the medium. I loved anime, manga, and science-fiction. I loved it so much I created a company. As time went on and I came to know more and more people in the industry, I began to encounter a certain prejudices: the accepted practice of calling comic readers 'fanboys'. Why is that? You wouldn't call a Jew a 'kike', you wouldn't call an Asian a 'chink', you wouldn't call an African-American a 'nigger'—unless you were a racist. So why is it okay to call a comic reader a 'fanboy'? Isn't that labeling someone because of what they are? Let's face it, nobody would want to admit in public that he or she is a fanboy, but isn't that what all of us are? Isn't the appreciation of comics the reason we are in this industry to begin with? I have not seen any other industry that treats its own customers with such utter contempt. Through its own actions and its own words, it continues to play these readers, thinking they are fools—i.e., 'fanboys'. "Let's go exclusive!" was the rallying cry, and to hell with the readers. "Who cares about them? They will follow us because they are 'fanboys,'" was the mantra in the industry. "Let's flood the market with as much similar product as possible because they are 'fanboys' and will buy what we feed them," continued the industry. Just how long did they think the readers were going to fall for it? Now the industry is in the midst of almost collapsing and they have no one to blame but themselves...or do they? Perhaps, in some nameless comic company boardroom, an executive is blaming the fall on those stupid 'fanboys'. They did not realize it was these 'fanboys' that were supporting them for years, and now the truth comes out that they never cared for them to begin with.

I am a comic reader. I like reading comics and I like talking about them. I am not afraid to admit that. I think that the industry needs to take a hard look at itself and its readers and try to understand that the passion of collecting and reading comics comes from within. Sure, there are those who try to manipulate it, twist it, and take advantage of others to enrich themselves in this industry. It is those I consider the real threat.

-Ben Dunn

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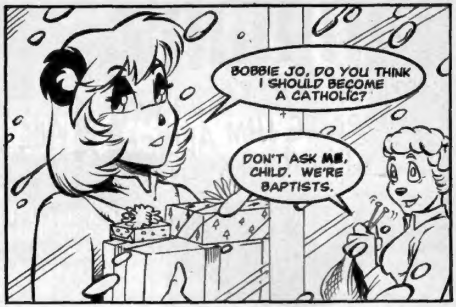
PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW-
PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW-
PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST-
Christmas Presence
STORY MIKE CURTIS
ART CHARLES ETTINGER
LETTERS MITCH MARMEL
VANGUARD MEDIA


BOBBIE JO, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD BECOME A CATHOLIC?
DON'T ASK ME, CHILD. WE'RE BAPTISTS.

WHY DO YOU ASK?
RICHARD AND TERRI ARE CATHOLICS. SO ARE PANDORA AND HER KIDS. AND I'M FEELING A LITTLE LEFT OUT.
OH! THEY'RE ALL AT CHRISTMAS MASS, AREN'T THEY?

OF COURSE, IF YOU AND DOUBLE R MARRY AND HAVE CHILDREN, I'M SURE HIS MOTHER WOULD PREFER IT.
CHILDREN?

YES, CHILDREN. LIKE BOBBIE JO'S EXPECTING. HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT?
-SOMETIMES-

BUT RICHARD ISN'T DIVORCED YET, SO CHILDREN ARE A WAY OFF.
I NEVER MARRIED YOLANDE'S FATHER...
OH! LOOK AT THE TIME! I'D BETTER GET DRESSED!
HM-
SHE LEFT QUICKLY ENOUGH.
I'M SURE SHANDA DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING-
AH! THE LITTLE ONE IS KICKING TODAY!
THANKS FOR BEING MY MIDWIFE, RAINBOW.
IT'S MY PLEASURE, BOBBIE JO. HAVE YOU LOOKED OUTSIDE?
NO. NOT FOR AWHILE.
THE SKY AND SNOW ARE SO BRIGHT! I LOOK OUTSIDE AND I SENSE MIRACLES WILL HAPPEN TODAY-
3

THE RADIO SAYS IT'S 10 BELOW.
THANKS FOR HAVING CHRISTMAS WITH US. I'M SURE MOM WILL FEEL BETTER TOMORROW.
I'M SURE.
DID YOU GET THAT PRESENT FOR SPEEDO?
OF COURSE.
WHY ARE YOU SO DOWN ON HIM? HE'S BRINGING ME ONE.
HE'S TOO FAST. I DON'T WANT HIM PUTTING MOVES ON YOU.
I SHOWED HIM MY HEART, SISSY.

OOOH! IT'S COLD! WHO'S HERE?
EVERYBODY BUT SISSY AND MISSY: RICHARD, ISN'T YOUR LAWYER COMING?
Home Sweet Home
YEAH. JOE YUNG. HE'S CHINESE.
RICHARD! I KNOW TWO OR THREE WORDS IN CHINESE!
HELLO, ED. GOOD TO SEE YOU OUT.
TOO MANY MEMORIES AT HOME, IAN.
MATTY WOULD LIKE YOU HERE TODAY.
YOYO! I GOT A MANAGER'S SUIT LIKE MOMMY'S! AND A BIKE!
OOOH! WHAT DID PERRY GET?
SOME VIDEO GAMES.
SPEEDO UPSTAIRS, TINA?
UH-HUH. BETTER GO SEE HIM.
5

WOW! THAT'S A PRETTY ONE!
WHO'S IT FOR? TINKA'S JEWISH.
IT'S NOT FOR TINKA.
WHUMP
I'M IN LOVE WITH MISSY.
YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. WHEN TINKA FINDS OUT, YOU'LL BE IN PAIN!
NOW, WHERE'S MY PRESENT?
WHAT PRESENT?
THE ONE IN YOUR ROOM! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LET ME SLEEP IN THERE-
POKE
-SINCE IT ARRIVED...

THEY'RE HERE!
HI, MISSY. GOT TIME FOR A WALK?
SURE, SPEEDO.
HI, SISSY. WHERE'S QUAMUS?
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
BACK IN AUSTRALIA? I BET YOU MISS HIM. POOR BABY.
MORE THAN ANYONE KNOWS.
BRRR! IT'S SO COLD!
WE'LL GO IN IN A MINUTE...
I GOT YOU A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
AND I BOUGHT YOU ONE FOR CHANUKAH...

A GOLD CROSS! THANK YOU!
A STAR OF DAVID! WITH A DIAMOND!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS.
MS. LAPIN, YOU'RE A NURSE. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ABOUT QUAMUS.
OH?
HE'S GOT A MEDICAL EXCUSE NOT TO SHOWER IN GYM, AND I'M WORRIED.
I THINK I KNOW WHY. LET'S WALK TO MY HOUSE. I'VE GOT A BOOK.

HOW'S YOUR LITTLE ONE COMING, TERRI?
KNOCK KNOCK!
FINE, SO FAR-
MERRY CHRISTMAS! YOU MUST BE QUINN.
MOMMY!!
CALM DOWN, QUINN. YOU MUST BE-
JOE YUNG, MA'AM.
RICHARD DIDN'T MENTION YOU WERE A SILVERBACK GORILLA.
YES, MA'AM. WE'RE RARE, YOU KNOW.

CAREFUL, LURCH! GOT SHANDA'S EYES COVERED?
UH-HUH.

DARLIN', THIS IS FROM TERRI AND ME.
WITH LOVE FROM BOTH OF US.

AH—

DON'T CRY, DARLIN'! DON'T YOU LIKE IT?

HOW...HOW DID YOU TWO KNOW HOW MUCH I MISSED PLAYING?

THEN PLAY US A CHRISTMAS CAROL, LOVE.
SHANDA, COULD WE HEAR "HOLLY AND THE IVY?" IT WAS MINE AND MATTY'S SONG.
SURE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
PICTURES DON'T LIE, SISSY.
HOW DID YOU- I MEAN-
I'VE DATED MARSUPIALS. IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT.
LOOK!
11

KEEP AN EYE ON HIM! I'LL GO GET LURCH!
SISSY-
I THINK SISSY IS OVER-REACTING. I'LL JUST GO UP TO HIM...
PARDON ME-
LURCH! DON'T LET HIM HURT MS. LAPIN!
GOTCHA, BOSS!
LURCH!
COME HERE, YOU!

OKAY, FELLA! I'VE GOT YOU!
DON'T HURT MY BABY!
BABY?
LURCH! DID YOU SLIP?
NO---
I HEAR A BABY CRYING--
CALM DOWN, SPARROW.
PLEASE-LET US GO. I'M SORRY-
I KNOW YOU---
WHO IS IT?
IT'S AMELIA PIGEON!

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT I LIKE BEING SCRATCHED BEHIND MY EARS?

YOYO TOLD ME.
MMM...

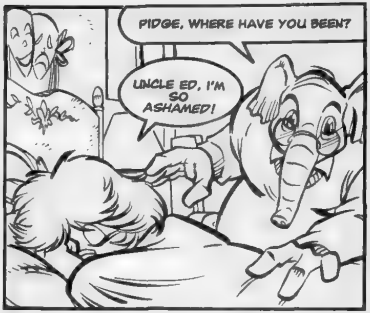
WORKS, DOESN'T IT?

AH---

GUYS--I HATE TO INTERRUPT-
THEN DON'T, SCOTTY!
ROWL!

SCOTTY, WE WERE KIND OF BUSY...
SORRY, MISSY.
THERE WAS A PROWLER OUTSIDE MS. BRUIN'S HOUSE. LURCH CAUGHT HER.
HER?
HEARTBEAT'S STRONG. HER TOES ARE FROSTBITTEN, THOUGH.
YOLANDE, GET MY THERMOMETER.
YES, MOM.
DOCTOR, WHERE'S MY BABY?
MY NURSE IS EXAMINING HER.
SPARROW'S A BOY, DOCTOR.
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO CAN COME IN FOR A MINUTE.
15

UNCLE ED?


PIDGE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
UNCLE ED, I'M SO ASHAMED!

SHANDA, HERE, HAS A JOB FOR YOU AT OUR OLD THEATER-AS AN ASSISTANT MANAGER.
IT'LL BE A NEW START, PIDGE.

I NEED A NEW START. BUT YOU MAY NOT WANT ME THERE, SHANDA. I'M AN UNWED MOTHER.
WHO'S THE FATHER?

MY OLD BOSS. HE FIRED ME AFTER I GOT PREGNANT.
NICE GUY.

MY SAVINGS RAN OUT, AND I LOST OUR APARTMENT. WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN MY CAR NEARBY. I HEARD UNCLE ED AND AUNT MATTY'S SONG--AND CAME UP TO HEAR IT.

SORRY, MISS PIGEON HAS A WARM BATH WAITING. SHANDA, PLEASE GIVE HER A HAND.
PIDGE, WE REALLY NEED YOU AT THE THEATER.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD CLOTHES- OR A PLACE TO STAY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR OLD ROOM AT MY HOUSE? YOU AND SPARROW CAN STAY THERE.
WHERE IS SPARROW?
MOM'S GOT HIM ON A SECOND BOTTLE! HE'S A BIG EATER!
HE'S BEEN SO HUNGRY, MY MILK DRIED UP A DAY AGO.
WELL, WE'LL GET YOU FULL AFTER YOUR BATH! CHRISTMAS DINNER'S WAITING!
DO YOU TWO REALLY WANT ME THERE?
NOT JUST US! MR. PAKDERM DOES, TOO!
THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHEN YOU CAN START WORK. ALMOST ALL OUR EMPLOY-EES ARE HERE TODAY!

Sorry We're
CLOSED
Come Back Again!
THIS IS MY THIRD CHRISTMAS HERE, AND IT WAS THE WORST YET.
EMPIRE'S EDGE
IT'S THOSE EXTRA SCREENS.
THANK GOODNESS PIDGE STARTS FRIDAY!
YEAH, THAT'LL BE GREAT!
AND MR. PAKDERM IS SO GLAD TO HAVE HER LIVING WITH HIM.
YES-
I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE THING THAT WOULD MAKE HIM HAPPIER.
HOW MANY BOTTLES HAS HE HAD TODAY?
FOUR. BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE WAS FULL. I JUST DREAD WHEN IT GOES THROUGH...

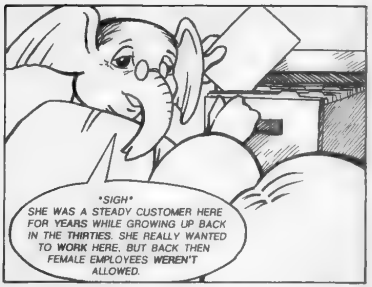
DON'T WORRY, UNCLE ED. I'LL CHANGE HIM.
CLICK
WOULDN'T BOTHER ME! I CHANGED YOUR DIAPERS ENOUGH.
I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR STARTING WORK AT OUR THEATER. WE'LL SHOP FOR CLOTHES TOMORROW.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN BE AN ASSISTANT MANAGER?
OF COURSE! YOU WERE PRACTICALLY MY ASSISTANT! AND MORE--SINCE MATTY AND I HAD NO CHILDREN.
AND I WON'T MIND RETIREMENT IF I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO YOU AND SPARROW BEING HERE. NOW, BED'S READY FOR YOU TWO.
YAWN!
'NIGHT, UNCLE ED. I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU TOO. GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD THING I DIDN'T CHANGE MY WILL. MAYBE I SHOULD START A TRUST FUND FOR SPARROW-
OH! OH! WHERE'S MY NITROGLYCERIN?
EMPTY. I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN SOME FROM IAN-
TEDDY? IT'S CHRISTMAS, OUR SPECIAL TIME TOGETHER.
AH-- IT'S GETTING EASIER. WHY'S THAT LIGHT SO BRIGHT?
TEDDY.
AM I DREAMING?
NO. I'M REALLY HERE.

REMEMBER HOW SAD YOU WERE WHEN I PASSED ON AND YOU WERE LEFT BEHIND?
YES...
EVERYTHING HAS A REASON. YOU HAD TO STAY-SO PIDGE AND SPARROW WOULD HAVE A HOME. IT'S THEIRS NOW. AND SHANDA WILL WATCH OVER HER NOW... UNTIL SHE MARRIES HER HUSBAND.
YOUR JOB IS DONE. YOU CAN GO HOME WITH ME NOW.
IF YOU WANT TO, TEDDY.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, MATTY.
THEN TAKE MY HAND. OUR LONG WAIT IS OVER.
Goodbye

GHOST of a CHANCE
MANAGER
CREDITS
STORY
ROBERT TEAGUE
BREAKDOWNS
MIKE CURTIS
ART
FRANK GEMBECK JR.
MR. PAKDERM, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
SURE, SCOTTY. COME IN
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
WELL SIR, I'M CURIOUS. HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING .. UNUSUAL... IN THE THEATER?
UNUSUAL HOW?
"THE OTHER NIGHT I WAS CLOSING WITH MS. BRUIN. AND I WAS IN #3. I HEARD A NOISE OUTSIDE AND WENT TO CHECK WHAT IT WAS."
"BEHIND THE CONCESSION STAND WAS A STRANGE LADY ACTING LIKE SHE WAS SELLING POPCORN TO A NON-EXISTENT CUSTOMER. HER UNIFORM WAS KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED. AND THE POPCORN BOX WAS ODD-LOOKING. SHE LOOKED AT ME AND SMILED. I BLINKED AND SHE WAS GONE."

AH, I KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU SAW HENRIETTA CRANE, WHO USED TO WORK HERE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?


SIGH
SHE WAS A STEADY CUSTOMER HERE FOR YEARS WHILE GROWING UP BACK IN THE THIRTIES. SHE REALLY WANTED TO WORK HERE, BUT BACK THEN FEMALE EMPLOYEES WEREN'T ALLOWED.

"SHE CAME IN ALL THE TIME AND MADE HERSELF USEFUL TO THE STAFF, AND LEARNED EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS THEATER."
"THEY PAID HER BACK BY GIVING HER FREE PASSES."

"DUE TO THE WORKER SHORTAGE DURING WORLD WAR II, CARNIVAL CINEMAS CHANGED THEIR POLICY IN 1943. RETTA WAS THE FIRST WOMAN HIRED HERE, AND I THINK IN THE ENTIRE CHAIN."

"I JOINED THE STAFF IN 1946, AND WORKED WITH HER UNTIL SHE DIED AN UNTIMELY DEATH OF INFLUENZA IN 1950."

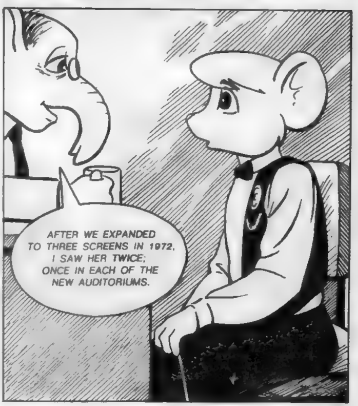
I WAS PROMOTED TO MANAGER"THE NEXT YEAR, ON APRIL 23rd.
I REMEMBER THAT FIRST DAY AS MANAGER LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY...

POPCORN
AND
SODA
10¢
"AFTER WE CLOSED, I WALKED AROUND, PROUD OF MYSELF AND ENJOYING THE FEELING OF EXCITEMENT."

"I WAS STANDING IN THE AUDITORIUM, AND FELT LIKE SOMEBODY WAS LOOKING AT ME. I TURNED AROUND, AND THERE SHE WAS!"

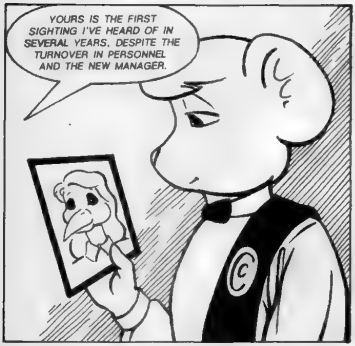
"SHE WAS IN HER UNIFORM, ARMS CROSSED, LOOKING AT ME WITH A BIG SMILE ON HER FACE."
I TOOK A STEP TOWARD HER, OPENED MY MOUTH TO SPEAK AND SHE WAS GONE."

"SINCE THEN, SHE'S BEEN SEEN BY VARIOUS EMPLOYEES AT ODD TIMES. SHE SEEMS TO CHECK OUT NEW EMPLOYEES AND CHANGES IN THE THEATER."


AFTER WE EXPANDED TO THREE SCREENS IN 1972, I SAW HER TWICE; ONCE IN EACH OF THE NEW AUDITORIUMS.

"SHE STILL LIKES TO HELP OUT WHEN SHE COMES AROUND; CLOSING DRAWERS LEFT OPEN, MOVING THINGS WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND, THAT KIND OF THING."

"ONCE, IN 1968, SHE TOOK A DISLIKE TO A NEW EMPLOYEE, AND TORMENTED THE GUY UNTIL HE QUIT."


YOURS IS THE FIRST SIGHTING I'VE HEARD OF IN SEVERAL YEARS, DESPITE THE TURNOVER IN PERSONNEL AND THE NEW MANAGER.

HUH, I GUESS I'LL KEEP MY EYES OPEN FROM NOW ON, ESPECIALLY IF I MIGHT GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEE HER.
YOU DO THAT.
AND I HOPE YOU DO SEE HER AGAIN. SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND.

DON'T WORRY, AS LONG AS YOU'VE WORKED HERE, IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE YOU, YOU'D KNOW IT BEFORE NOW.

LATER...
I'VE FINISHED CLEANING, MR. PAKDERM.
OKAY, GOOD NIGHT, THEN.
GOOD NIGHT, SIR!

SNAP!
I FORGOT TO TURN OFF POWER TO THE PROJECTORS!

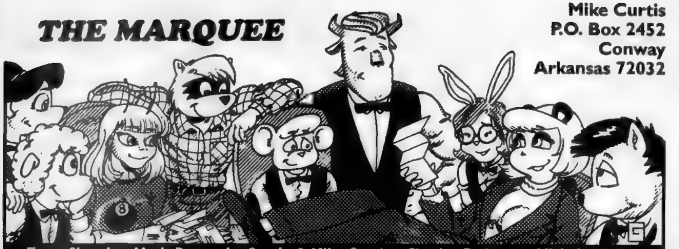
CLICK CLICK CLICK
THAT SOUNDED LIKE...

I THOUGHT SO.
PROJECTORS
HOUSE

THANKS, MIZ CRANE!

THE MARQUEE

Mike Curtis
P.O. Box 2452
Conway
Arkansas 72032



Team Shanda: Mark Barnard • Carole & Mike Curtis • Charles Ettinger • Michele Light • Mike Sagara • GAFF • Lord Rees • Robert Teague

There's a lot to talk about, so let's get started...

It's 5:30 AM on an icy morning. Carole & I have been so busy lately that getting less sleep seems to be the only way to catch up. The deadlines for our new Vision Comics books, SHANDA 15 and KATMANDU 7, were moved up to April from July, so we and all our creative co-workers are working harder than ever. It helps that we're adding background artists and digital shading and reducing the price. That's right, from $2.95 to $1.95; a better product for your comics dollar.

ConFurence this year was busier than ever. Not only were we authors, but now we were publishers, with the GIANT SHANDA ANIMAL. Shanda Fantasy Arts' next comic will be the long-awaited reprint of KATMANDU 1-3, with new material. Look for it in the Fall. NEW HORIZONS, our anthology comic, is planned for ConFurence 97, as well as a second SHANDA ANIMAL. We're also considering an anthropomorphic card set.

KATMANDU 7-9 looks very exciting! Lots of action in two time periods. Carole's "American Indikats" (my phrase) seem to have hit a nerve with lots of readers. She's getting good commentary from people of Native American heritage; Georgia Creek is part of her inheritance. I'm currently restructuring SHANDA 16 & 17 (The Return of Wing) and plan to bow to so many letters by making issue 18 the one where Shanda shows ROCKY HORROR.

The advance copies of GIANT SHANDA ANIMAL at ConFurence garnered good responses. Rommel Ignatio and Carla Speed McNeil got nice comments (especially from Michele and Mike Sagara!). Look for more work by them. For those not in attendance, the ANIMAL hits comic shops in May. It's nine stories (only one a reprint) by Team Shanda regulars and new talent.

ConFurence, for those who have never been, is the premiere convention for furry readers everywhere. It's the brainchild of MARK MERLINO, who somehow brings together the cream of anthropomorphic pros and fans for the bash of the year. He really doesn't get enough credit, so we salute him. Without Mark and his crew, ConFurence wouldn't exist.

We make ConFurence each year, but are considering Worldcon and Dragoncon, as well as ConFurence East and/or Philcon.

Thanks to all our readers who met and followed our books at Antarctic Press; please follow us over to Darrell Benvenuto's company VISION COMICS. We'll have compatriots in Shea Ryan, Mark Shaw and Kjartan Arnörsson, as well as new products. Onto the letters –

Dear Mike & Team Shanda,

Shanda now becomes Terri's and Richard's lover. I'm impressed that Richard is open-minded and accepting of Shanda's new orientation. In our real world, many families' comments aren't easy when they find out their brothers, sisters, daughters, or sons' sexual orientation. I hope Shanda's family will accept Shanda's Bisexuality. **<I don't think Shanda will be telling them.>** I remember Shanda was afraid and shy of Terri when she first saw Terri naked in SHANDA #1. Now they are lovers.

Gotta go! I talk too much. Before I close my comments, I have a few questions:

Will Richard's mother appear in SHANDA? **<Yes, in #19 & 20, the Mardi Gras story.>**

Can Sissy have her own story as the new assistant manager at the new theater? **<There's a thought. SISSY THE POODLE COMICS!?>**

Will Rainbow and Pandora have sexual scenes in the bed as do Terri & Shanda? **<See SHANDA XXX FILES #4.>**

Sheila Wheadon

Dear Mike and Carole:

The cover of the GIANT SHANDA ANIMAL in particular looks adorable – I'd been hoping for some time to see Shanda in a Supergirl (or would this be closer to Power Girl?) motif... (By the way, was the cover to #12 based on a movie poster? I don't recognize it...)

Jol Silversmith

<Three of Hearts.>

Mike and Carole,

First off, please allow me to express the amount of joy and enjoyment the Shanda series has brought me. The characters are alive, kicking, and believable, and I find the surrounding atmosphere of the Shandaverse to be both quaint and surreal. If I were to voice only one critique, it would be that the damned things just don't come out fast enough.

Darius Bowen II

<Beginning this issue, there'll be a new SHANDA comic every month through June.>

Dear Mike & Crew,

I'd be interested to see a rationale of the genetics of Shanda's world, if Quinn is a cross-breed, you would have thought that many others like her would exist, enough to make any prejudice pointless. There must be strong social taboos against raising inter-species children or something. It would be fascinating to see an adult with a similar background come into the story, just to find out what other people's reaction to him (or her) would be.

Andy "Mad Baz" Tucker

P.S. – Rabbits have a lot of fun, because there are a lot of them. Why are there a lot of them? 'Coz rabbits have A LOT OF FUN!

Dear Mike and Carole:

"Date Night" was excellently done. It's good to see that Terri is beginning to learn that she can't have Shanda all to herself. It's great that Sissy is helping Missy with her handicap, however she can't live Missy's life for her. Missy needs to live her own life, including making some choices on her own.

D.J. Hill

Dear Mike,

As to issue 12, I noticed that Shanda doesn't feel she has to have sex with Richard to 'keep him,' yet she feels she has to 'prove her love' to Terri by going to bed with her. I was wondering why that is? **<Terri's more insecure than Richard regarding Shanda.>** I'm glad that Shanda was considerate enough to consult with Richard before she went ahead with her plans, and again, I see how mature Richard is with regards to the relationship between Shanda and Terri.

I also was wondering what 'that business in the 8th grade' that Speedo referred to was, and about his 'reputation.'

Michael R. Stotts

<In the 8th grade, an older classmate attempted to rape Missy, and Sissy sent him literally to the hospital. Speedo has a reputation as the class stud.>

Dear Mike & Carole:

Hope this letter finds you both in good health and good cheer... g-in. Enclosed you will find an embroidered "wall hanging" (or wherever you want to put it). I fell in "love" with Terrie's drawing of the threesome that John showed me that I decided to try my hand at reproducing it in thread... I hope Terrie and you don't mind. **<It arrived Christmas Eve and looks wonderful! Terrie loved it, too.>**

I love the way the plot is developing in SHANDA... I'm falling in love with all of them. Still, my favorites right now are the threesome... I JUST LOVE THEM...

LouAnn D. Linder

Dear Panda People:

So when are you going to print six or seven T-shirts? Airbrushing Shanda on my bare chest is out of the question because I am not an artist by any means, not to mention copyrights and such. **<There'll be a T-shirt ad in #15.>**

And now: #12!! I felt the story was a little hurried this time. Shanda and Terri doin' the Wild Thing is a bombshell! I know the story has been building to this for -- well -- every issue, but I expected more than four panels before she decided to take the plunge. **<That's about all we could show. The later GENUS story will expand on #12 and feature Terrie Smith & Mark Barnard art.>**

I also like the interaction between Speedo and Missy. I have always thought that they would make a good pair, and this is the first issue that Speedo hasn't been "Johnny Confident."

Steve Sams

Dear Mike,

On to issue #12!

Shanda's a virgin?!? What were she and Richard doing at the lake? Water polo? If she's telling the truth (and not just making a quick cover-up in front of Sissy), then I hate Wing even more! **<They were just petting...>**

I love the way Terrie Smith draws Missy! "With wide-eyed innocence" is the only way to describe it. Perfect!

I think the reason Speedo's lines aren't coming slick and smooth like he's used to is that he somehow senses that Missy is... well... "innocent" isn't the word, but it's the closest I can come up with this late at night! "Here, kitty, kitty..." Hah!

"And now! Ladies and Gentlemen! The match-up everyone has been waiting for! Shanda and Terri!" (And the crowd goes wild...)

Pg. 14, last panel: I love Shanda's deadpan expression! She's like, "I'm not doing anything. My foot just got lonely all of a sudden!"

"...little bear ass –"" Mike, Mike, Mike... (shaking head). What are we going to do with you? (I liked it! I really liked it!)

"Yoyo's Ma" (....) As Dale said, "Kill! Maim! Eviscerate!"

John F. Martin
Resaca, GA

P.S. Pg. 21, first panel: "Gentlemen, what we have here is one VERY satisfied cricket!" (or should that be, one very SATED cricket?) Either way works for me! (and Terri!)

Dear Mr. Curtis,

On second reading of this 11th issue, I was struck by the fact that this... "event"... Pandora and Richard keep mentioning but don't want to talk about could very well be their having been, well, intimate together (maybe in a moment of passion, maybe in a moment of confusion; only they, God, and yourself know). **<I think they just kissed. Carole thinks**

it didn't go that far. But they were attracted to each other.>

By the way, I had some ideas for a Terri backup story, but I don't suppose there'll be any chance of it being published. I'm drawing it anyway, and so I just had to ask about it. **<Send it in. That's how John Martin got 2 stories in the GIANT ANIMAL.>**

Daniel Julvert.
Barcelona, Spain

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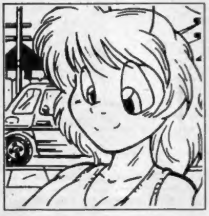
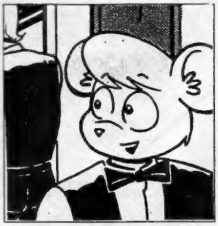


TERRI SNOW
Bartender

"My favorite one is Dancer Dawkins And The California Kid by Willyce Kim. I also like Bingo and Six Of One by Rita Mae Brown."

RAINBOW LAPIN
Registered Nurse
"I think The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test by Tom Robbins. Descent Of Woman by Elaine Morgan is good too. Have you read it?"



SCOTT MC ALLISTER
Student

"Maus by Art Spiegelman. The Collected Bone by Jeff Smith, and the Usagi Yojimbo collections by Stan Sakai. Oh, and Hey, Neeters by Mike Sagara.

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